



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MALIK, A

Examiner:

THERKORN, ERNEST G.

Serial No.: 10/001,489

Group Art Unit: 1723

Filing Date: October 23, 2001

Title: SAMPLE PRECONCENTRATION TUBES WITH SOL-GEL
SURFACE COATINGS AND/OR SOL-GEL MONOLITHIC BEDS

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
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Neil R. Jetter

Reg. No. 46,803

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2003, a Reply is presented as follows.

In the claims

Please amend claims 1-12 as follows.

1. (Amended) A method of preconcentrating trace analytes, comprising the steps of:
providing a hollow capillary having at least one sol-gel extraction medium within
said hollow capillary, said sol-gel extraction medium chemically bound to inner walls of said
hollow capillary to form a sol-gel extraction medium-loaded capillary, and
exposing said loaded capillary to a sample containing at least one target analyte,
wherein said target analyte becomes disposed inside said loaded capillary.